

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing information, the method comprising the steps of:

associating a plurality of entries with a directory system that is accessed by an application, wherein the plurality of entries comprises a first entry and a second entry;

associating [[an]] at least one attribute with the first entry and the second entry;

generating a value based on a class of service logic, wherein the value provides information associated with a user of the application; and

associating the value with the at least one attribute, whereby the value is shared by the first entry and the second entry in a manner that is transparent to the application.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of generating further comprises the step of:

generating the value of the at least one attribute at the time the first entry is transmitted to the application.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of generating further comprises the step of:

generating the value of the at least one attribute immediately prior to the time the first entry is transmitted to the application.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A method of configuring a directory server comprising a plurality of entries, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a class of service (CoS) attribute, wherein the CoS attribute includes a CoS Definition entry and a Template entry;

associating the CoS attribute with a target entry that lies within a CoS scope of the CoS Definition entry and the Template entry; and

providing an attribute value for the target entry based on the CoS Definition entry and the Template entry.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 5, wherein the CoS Definition entry is stored as an LDAP subentry below the branch at which [[it]] the LDAP subentry is effective.

7. (Original) The method as in claim 5, wherein the CoS Definition entry identifies a CoS type being used.

8. (Original) The method as in claim 5, wherein the Template entry contains a list of attribute values that are shared.

9. (Original) The method as in claim 4, wherein the CoS scope is defined by the DN of the CoS Definition entry.

10. (Original) The method as in claim 5, wherein the presence or absence of the target entry's CoS specifier determines whether the target entry may receive a CoS value.

11. (Original) The method as in claim 5, wherein an attribute value stored in a CoS Template determines what value a target entry may receive as a CoS value.

12. (Original) The method as in claim 5, further comprising the step of:

changing an attribute value in the Template entry.

13. (Original) The method as in claim 12, further comprising the step of:

automatically applying the changed attribute value to all entries that share the attribute.

14. (Original) The method as in claim 13, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to an entry that shares the attribute at the time the entry is transmitted to an application.

15. (Original) The method as in claim 13, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to an entry that shares the attribute immediately prior to the time the entry is transmitted to the application.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a directory server comprising:

a first component configured to store a plurality of target entries;

a second component configured to facilitate sharing attributes of a first entry with other entries in a directory system; and

a third component configured to generate a value for at least one attribute of the first entry, whereby the at least one attribute may be shared with other entries in a manner that is transparent to an application.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the third component ~~further~~ comprises:

a fourth component configured to generate [[of]] the at least one attribute at the time the entry is transmitted to the application.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the third component ~~further~~ comprises:

a fifth component configured to generate the value of the at least one attribute immediately prior to the time the entry is transmitted to the application.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the third component ~~further~~ comprises:

a sixth component configured to generate the value based on a class of service logic, wherein the value provides information associated with a user of the application.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a directory server comprising:

a first component configured to store a plurality of target entries; and

a second component configured to define a class of service (CoS) attribute for a target entry, the CoS attribute including a CoS Definition entry and a Template entry, whereby the CoS Definition entry and the Template entry interact to provide an attribute value to a target entry that lies within a CoS scope of the CoS Definition entry and the Template entry.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the CoS Definition entry is stored as an LDAP subentry below the branch at which [[it]] the LDAP subentry is effective.

22. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the CoS Definition entry identifies a CoS type being used.

23. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the Template entry contains a list of attribute values that are shared.

24. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the CoS scope is defined by the DN of the CoS Definition entry.

25. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the presence or absence of the target entry's CoS specifier determines whether the target entry may receive a CoS value.

26. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein an attribute value stored in a CoS Template determines what value entry may receive as a CoS value.

27. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 20, further comprising:
 - a component to change an attribute value in the Template entry.
28. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 27, further comprising:
 - a component to automatically apply the changed attribute value to all entries that share the attribute.
29. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 27, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to an entry that shares the attribute at the time the entry is transmitted to an application.
30. (Original) The apparatus as in claim 27, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to an entry that shares the attribute immediately prior to the time the entry is transmitted to an application.